

A Parking Lot Reserved for the Blind

You'd probably do a "double-take" if you ever saw a sign in a parking lot that read, "Reserved for the Blind." Well take that second look, because there is just such a sign in the parking lot of the Chevrolet Motor Division plant on Alexis Road. And it reserves parking space for the five blind people who are employed there.

The Society is particularly proud of the efforts of these people who are accomplished employees of the Chevrolet plant. The three men and two women are productive, responsible workers who have been well-received and are well-liked by their fellow employees.

Through the recommendations of the Society and the Bureau of Services for the Blind, the first applied for and received employment at the plant in 1965. The company re-



Mary Ann Smith stops to give the camera a smile in the special parking area for blind workers at Chevrolet.

ports that the results of their employment have been "very satisfactory," and everyone is pleased with their abilities to learn and perform the jobs assigned.

If you are interested in hiring the handicapped and would like more information, please contact the Society by calling 243-8239. Mr. Lyle Kirk, our executive director, will be happy to discuss it with you.

By the way, those reserved parking places are there for co-workers of the blind who drive them to work each day. Did you think we were kidding?

Progress Report—Eye Screening Program

The Society for the Blind has always believed in a careful program of eye screening for pre-school children. This is a critical period of time in the development of the eye; for a child's eyes grow as he grows, and vision develops from birth through the age of 6 or 7. Thus visual care is essential if eye defects are to be detected and corrected before permanent damage occurs.

Nearly four years ago, the Society established an eye screening program with the assistance of many wonderful volunteers and Toledo ophthalmologists. The first stage of the program reached nursery school children, and later expanded to include an inner city program along with Head Start.



Mrs. John Meszaros of the Society explains the special eye screening chart to a group of volunteer mothers. From left: Mrs. George Cudworth, Mrs. John C. Good, Mrs. Peter Kirchmaier, Mrs. Rolland Fulton, and Mrs. Waldo A. Schauweker.

A more recent program to be established is one by the Deveau Mothers' Club. Mrs. Dorothy Yeack, a member of the Club, is also the vice chairman of the Society's eye screening committee. So she and the other members of the Club volunteered for and received eye screening training so that they in turn could set up a program in their own school. The prospects for this to prove successful are excellent, and we're looking for its establishment in the other schools throughout the city.

To date, The Society's eye programs have been working well and over 5,000 children have been screened. Open eye screening is available every Tuesday morning at the Society. If you would like to know more about it, just give us a call at 243-8239.

Time To Order Your 1970 Holiday Cards

Even though Spring and warm weather are just around the corner, it's never too early to select the holiday cards you'll be sending this year. And already we are anticipating this year's holiday season.

Each year the Society offers a beautiful selection of cards from which to choose, and 1970 will be no exception. If you would like to receive samples of our lovely cards, merely fill in the enclosed card and drop it in the mail.

This year your holiday cards can send with them more

than just "Season's Greetings" because the contributions received from them are used for many of the activities provided by the Society to the blind. Some of these include the annual summer camp, family nights, blind bowlers, and a special visit from Santa with gifts for our blind children.

Remember that you are not charged or billed from us for these cards. Instead you are only asked to make a contribution to the Society. Anything over the amount you normally pay for your holiday cards is tax deductible.

The Toledo Society For The Blind NEWS

A NEWS LETTER TO HELP YOU BECOME BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THIS RED FEATHER AGENCY

Vol. 7, No. 1—April, 1970

1819 Canton Avenue

Telephone 243-8239

'Success and Accomplishment' Our Theme for 1970

No other words but "Success and Accomplishment" can describe the results achieved by the Toledo Society for the Blind in its efforts to establish and provide a state-approved Rehabilitation Center for the blind. The Center, to be formally opened and dedicated in April, will provide mobility training, home management, and techniques of daily living



Society President John Goerlich, left, and Executive Director Lyle Kirk in the new Techniques of Daily Living apartment.

programs for blind persons from 24 counties in Northwestern Ohio.

Previously, anyone seeking help in these areas had to travel as far as Cleveland, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, or Columbus to receive training, classes, and instruction in rehabilitation.

Our center, which is a Red Feather agency, receives funding from various sources: the State Service for the Blind, which furnishes rehabilitation money for each applicant who qualifies as legally blind; and the United Appeal. The support received from the United Appeal is used for various operating expenses incurred by the Society. However, if it weren't for the additional contributions of both time and money we received from our many friends in the community, many of our projects could never have been accomplished.

The construction costs and furnishing requirements of our Rehabilitation Center were met through the receipt of bequests and matching funds from both the Ohio state and the federal governments. Again we are so thankful for the continued interest and support we receive from those acquainted with the Society and the services we provide.

In addition to our new center, we are equally proud of our staff, whose dedication and efforts have been vital in the establishment of our training programs. Mrs. Jane Schu-

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Open House and Dedication

You are cordially invited to attend our Open House and Dedication for the new Rehabilitation Center that has recently been completed. The Open House will be held at the Society, 1819 Canton Avenue, the week of April 13-19 inclusive.

You will have the opportunity to see the newly constructed facilities at the Society. Tours will include the Rehabilitation Department where Mobility Training, Home Management, and Techniques of Daily Living are taught; the newly furnished dining, kitchen, and recreation rooms; and the new additions to the Sheltered Workshop.

Special tours will be arranged to visit the Community

Medical Eye Center at St. Vincent Hospital.

The Open House hours are:

Monday, April 13—10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Tuesday, April 14—10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wednesday, April 15—10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday, April 16—2 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday, April 17—10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday, April 18—12 noon to 5 p.m.
Sunday, April 19—12 noon to 5 p.m.

Parking will be available north of the Society building (Canton and Southard Streets) in the Questor parking lot, and on-the-street.

Success and Accomplishment

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man, our social worker, assisted in creating and setting up the programs for mobility training and techniques of daily living. Our mobility instructor, Mrs. Rosalyn Snow, provided key assistance in planning and furnishing the techniques of daily living center and will teach the first candidates who use the facilities.

Mrs. Snow and another member of our staff, Mrs. Bonnie Zaborowski, have attended special classes at the Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind in Little Rock, Arkansas, one of the finest schools of its kind in the country. There they received instruction in the latest techniques and information available on mobility training for the blind.

When you visit our Mobility Training Room, there are surprises in store. For here we have replicas of city sidewalks, curbs, stairways, steps, and even a real traffic light! These replicas are an essential part of our mobility training, as they simulate the actual situations blind people encounter in their walks about the city.

In the same room, we have a treadmill, bicycle exerciser, and a weightlifting device which are used in keeping the blind physically fit. Physical fitness is especially important to a handicapped person. Since losing their sight, many of our blind have not been able to move about due to muscles that have been unused for a long period of time. Our mobility training provides physical fitness, training, and self confidence to those who would otherwise be limited in traveling independently about the city.



In the homey atmosphere of our Techniques of Daily Living apartment, the blind clients will become accustomed to moving about in a room full of furniture, will learn to tell when lights are burning, and will be instructed in the use of the talking book seen on the table.



Making a bed can be a real chore if you've never been taught properly.



The trainees will learn to use both gas and electric ranges; as well as how to organize and run a good kitchen.

In an adjoining room is the Techniques of Daily Living Center which consists of a completely furnished apartment. It is here that blind people learn to accomplish all the daily tasks we take so much for granted—such as dusting furniture, making the bed, washing clothes and dishes, and even combing our hair. The apartment consists of a bedroom, bathroom, living room, dining room, and kitchen—all attractively furnished.

In these rooms, the blind receive instruction and training that they actually put to use in their own homes, "homework" you might call it, so that they are able to lead more independent lives. The Society also will have a residence home on Ontario Street which houses blind out of town students.

The amount of training varies according to each student's ability, previously acquired skills, and general health. But even the easiest to teach students require some 60 to 100 hours before winning their "solo wings." Now that we have completed our new facilities, we hope to see many more "solos" graduate from our training programs.

In addition to our new training centers, we would also like to tell you about our new dining, recreation, and kitchen facilities. Because of the inadequacy of previous facilities and the growth of the Society's activities, the Board of Trustees deemed it advisable to relocate and expand these areas in order to meet local health requirements and our growing needs.

The new kitchen has been relocated in the old multi-purpose room, and the former stock room has been transformed into a snack bar. Our new dining room, which can accommodate 125 people, has been located in the old recreation room. The portion of land once used as a guide dog run has become the recreation room. Thus with these combined facilities, we are able to serve as many as 200 persons.

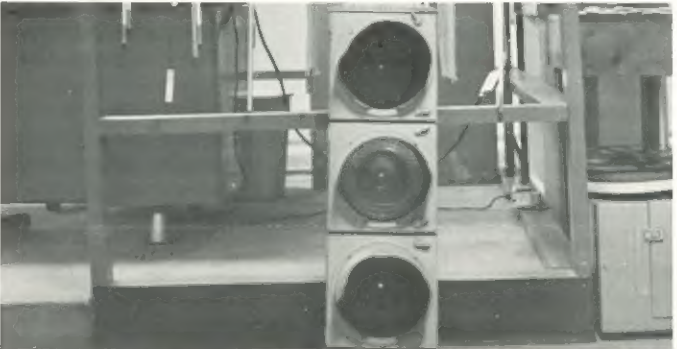


In the utility area of the apartment they will be taught the "art" of washing, drying, and ironing their clothes using modern appliances.

All of our successes and accomplishments could never have come true without our many wonderful friends in the community who have given unselfishly of their time, efforts, and contributions. Most of all we would like to thank the Lions' Club, the founders of the Toledo Society for the Blind, for their many years of dedicated service in helping us accomplish our goals.



In the Mobility Training Room a treadmill, bicycle exerciser, and weights are kept on hand to tone up muscles grown inactive through years of blindness.



Using a real operational traffic signal, the blind trainees will learn to attune their hearing to distinguish between the sounds made as the lights change.

Medical Eye Clinic Open At St. Vincent Hospital

The establishment of a low vision medical eye clinic has long been one of the goals of the Toledo Society for the Blind. Today that goal is a reality. You have only to step inside the Medical Eye Clinic at St. Vincent Hospital to see the results of determination and dedication.

The Toledo ophthalmologists who had been giving free eye services at Maumee Valley Hospital and many other concerned citizens felt that an organized eye examination program would be more efficient than the one in use.

After visiting a state supported eye clinic in Cincinnati, Ohio, Dr. Robert Kiess, a Toledo ophthalmologist, and Mr. Lyle Kirk, executive director of the Society for the Blind, proposed a similar one in Toledo wherein clients could have their eyes examined and receive proper treatment for defects discovered.

Through the donation of a room in St. Vincent Hospital and equipment provided by the Toledo Lions Club and others, a Medical Eye Clinic was created. Six Toledo ophthalmologists volunteered to take turns in servicing the clinic for people with sight problems, and the doors of the clinic were officially opened. The clinic is now open every Thursday and Friday, and during 1969 over 700 persons received eye examinations, screening, and treatment.

Meet Bill Marti— The Newest Member of the Society Board of Trustees



Bill Marti

The enthusiasm and spirited interest in the Society generated by our newest member of the Board of Trustees is as contagious as a smile! And we are proud to introduce him to you. His name is Bill Marti, the newly-appointed Vice President of the Society Board of Trustees.

Although a native of Benton Harbor, Michigan, Bill has lived in Toledo "... so long I can't remember." At present, Bill is the Administrative Vice President of Canteen Service Company of Toledo, and being in the automatic merchandising business has kept him hyperactive.

While continuing in his present position, he is also the Director and a past President of the Ohio Automatic Merchandising Association and a member of the Food Service Advisory Board in the Ohio State Department of Health.

On the national level, Bill is the Chairman of the Employee Selection and Training Committee of the National Automatic Merchandising Association, headquartered in Chicago. This Committee is composed of twenty members who represent various vending service companies in the United States.

Bill first became associated with the Society for the Blind in 1953 when he joined the Downtown Toledo Lions' Club. Through the years, he has held various positions in the Club, including President and Chairman of the Welfare Fund. Because of the numerous activities sponsored by the Club, Bill became better acquainted with the Society and the services it provides.

When asked about the Society, Bill commented, "To say that I am impressed with the progress the Society has made in the past few years would be an understatement. I have had to do my 'homework' to keep up with the forward movement of the Society; and the new ideas coming up are going to provide a fine future for them."

Bill credits much of the Society's success and progress to the inspiration and dedication of John Goerlich over the past 25 years. He said, "The Society owes a great deal to that man."

When not involved in his numerous business and Society responsibilities, Bill likes to spend his leisure time fishing. Bill and his wife, who is a registered nurse, have three children.

24 Counties Served by Society

The following is the list of the 24 counties in Northwestern Ohio that are served by the Toledo Society for the Blind:

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| Allen | Lucas |
| Auglaize | Marion |
| Crawford | Mercer |
| Defiance | Ottawa |
| Erie | Paulding |
| Fulton | Putnam |
| Hancock | Sandusky |
| Hardin | Seneca |
| Harrison | Shelby |
| Henry | Van Wert |
| Huron | Williams |
| Logan | Wood |